

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L. LESHER

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues.

Dr. Richard L. Leshar, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has announced that he will retire after 21 years of faithful service to the chamber and business communities across the country.

Dr. Leshar began his career by receiving his doctorate in Business Administration from Indiana University. Then, he worked as an assistant professor at the Ohio State University. From 1964 to 1969, Dr. Leshar was an assistant administrator at NASA during a period marked by exceptional achievement in space exploration.

Dr. Richard L. Leshar assumed the presidency of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1975. Since then, he has been devoted to advancing the interests of the U.S. business community. He played an instrumental role in developing Grassroots Action Information Network [GAIN], a service through which influential legislation was passed due to its membership. Dr. Leshar then steered the chamber's launching of the American Business Network, or BizNet. This network featured two award-winning television programs: "First Business" and "It's Your Business". Leshar is also a decorated newspaper columnist in the Voice of Business, which is distributed in over 600 newspapers across the Nation.

Dr. Leshar's accomplishments and contributions to business development were rewarded when he received the Associated Trends Executive of the Year Award. His hard work, dedication, and determination lead to this monumental award.

Dr. Richard L. Leshar's service and commitment to the business world are commendable, and Dr. Leshar's work is deserving of thanks and praise of the people of his industry. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Dr. Leshar, and wishing him luck and success in the future.

CONGRATULATING MS. JENNIFER GOODMAN, WINNER OF THE 1997 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP

**HON. ASA HUTCHINSON**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Jennifer Goodman of Clarksville, AR, for her winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1997 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. A senior at Clarksville High School, Ms. Moore is already an active participant in our Nation's democratic process—serving as senior class president, attending Girls' State, and serving as the district president of Future Business Leaders of America.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program, which began 50 years ago, provides financial awards to students whose writing expresses the spirit of democratic principles. Ms.

Goodman's entry exemplifies the patriotism and self-sacrifice of those who gave their lives for freedom's sake.

I congratulate Ms. Goodman on her thoughtful and moving essay. Mr. Speaker, I just might borrow it sometime!

I would also like to thank VFW Post 8532 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Coal Hill, AR, for sponsoring Ms. Goodman. This Nation owes a debt of gratitude it can never repay to our veterans—those who served our country in times of crisis and who continue to serve our communities through programs such as this.

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(By Arkansas Winner Jennifer Goodman)

Democracy, a form of government above and beyond. Democracy stood by our first president in the blood and snow of Valley Forge. It was there, when our nation was born with the wilderness at her back, stormy seas at her sides and not one friendly neighbor to call on for help, the democracy earned the right to be recognized. It's existence has been paid for with a price that few today can truly comprehend.

We see in our nation's distant memory those who gave their lives for it's existence. They died in places like Pork Chop Hill, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Pearl Harbor and the Asian Jungles, half a world away. More than a million of our finest troops died for democracy's right to speak. They are buried in Flanders Field in France, the Punch Bowl in Hawaii, some in the mud or sand where they fell. They are gone, but they are not forgotten. Even though their lives were short, their fight for the right to democracy remains. Because of their sacrifice democracy has the right to speak, so we need to listen.

Democracy speaks to the heart of every nation, to all men, women and children of every race, creed and color. Listen to her message. No other nation with any other form of government is swifter to unselfishly spend billions of dollars, sail strange seas, fly unfamiliar skies to rescue a defeated besieged people with facial features, religions and ways of living that my seem odd by my standards, but democracy never noticed. For democracy only sees them as depressed hurting people crying for help. So democracy's defenders marched on leaving a trail of their own blood behind, as they liberated people they had never seen before and would never see again. When peace came from their efforts they simply went home to mom, asking no thanks, expecting no monuments, and surely not expecting to build a world empire, because that is not what democracy is all about. Democracy does not enslave other nations, it extends to them their own freedom. A chance for them to experience the way of life that only democracy, a form of government above and beyond all others, could share with them.

As Americans we need to be proud of democracy for no other form of government guarantees you the freedom that it does. Freedom to be whatever you want to be, a street sweeper or an astronaut. Freedom to travel from state to state, freedom to speak and to write. Freedom to praise or to criticize. Freedom to save and build a fortune that at the end of your life you may simply give away. Freedom to worship as our hearts and minds dictate. Freedom to vote, knowing that one vote can and does make a difference. Freedom not only to choose those who lead you, but to be a part of that body which does the leading. Whether it be a local school board member, a state representative or even the President of the United States, every citizen of a democracy can dream that dream if they so desire.

This summer I was privileged to visit our nation's capitol. There my heart was filled with pride as I viewed the great buildings that represent our democracy, the White House, the Capitol, the House of Congress, the Supreme Court. It brought to my mind what a great nation we have. But then I returned to my home town, Maine Street USA, just an average American city, yet very special to me. As I looked around I found that same sense of pride filling my heart once again, my city hall, my court house and yes, even my school. The question came to my mind, "Don't these buildings represent democracy also?" As I looked at the eternal flame on the court house square, which burns in memory of our honored veterans, I was reminded once again of those who gave so much to purchase the rights and privileges that I now have. May I never forget what they have given me, Democracy, a form of government above and beyond all others.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in case you or any other Members missed it during the recent district work period, I gladly bring to your attention one of the most significant newspaper columns to appear this year.

It was written by James Glassman of the American Enterprise Institute and published August 12 in the Washington Post, which, Mr. Speaker, is never confused with a house organ of the Republican Party. It should humble us all in this body to read Mr. Glassman claim that as Members of Congress we have had little to do with the economic recovery and do well when we, and I quote, "get out of the way." Truer words were rarely spoken, but I can hardly resist adding that "getting out of the way" is exactly the thrust of many Republican policies and exactly the opposite of the party which controlled this House for 40 years.

But the most welcome truth in Glassman's column is credit national business leaders give, not to President Clinton, but the President Reagan for today's economic recovery.

Some might say, Mr. Speaker, that Ronald Reagan has been out of office for 8 years, which is true. But the column makes clear that we are now reaping the harvest for policies that took root during the Reagan years, so much so, in fact, that Ronald Reagan is the first politician listed by business leaders surveyed on the recovery. His policies are credited by 26 percent of those surveyed, compared to 14 percent for President Bush. Down near the bottom, at 8 percent, are the policies of President Clinton.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that any survey could find even 8 percent of business leaders who would credit the biggest tax increase in American history for anything positive. But the point remains. We owe Ronald Reagan a huge debt.

I gladly place the Glassman column in today's RECORD and urge all Members to read it.

THE REAGAN BOOM

(James K. Glassman)

Whose economy is this anyway?

Both President Clinton and Congress are eager to take credit for our 3 percent GDP